

KITTITAS COUNTY COMBINED SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS
Kittitas County, Washington
January 1, 1992 Through December 31, 1994

Schedule Of Findings

1. Kittitas County Fire Protection District No. 2 Officials Should Comply With Applicable Bid Laws

In June of 1994, the district began construction on a remodeling project which was finished in October of 1994. The total cost of this project was \$42,154. The materials for this project went out for bid, but the labor portion did not. In addition, the materials bid was not awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

Not putting the whole project out for bid violates RCW 52.14.110 which states in part:

Formal sealed bids shall not be required for:

(3) Contracting for work to be done involving the construction or improvement of a fire station or other buildings where the estimated cost will not exceed the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars, which includes the cost of labor, materials and equipment . . . (Emphasis ours.)

Additionally, not awarding the materials bid to the lowest responsible bidder is a violation of the provisions of the competitive bid process.

When the established purchasing and bidding requirements are circumvented, the district officials cannot assure the public that the most prudent use of tax dollars is occurring.

The chairperson for the board of commissioners stated that, based on the advice of their attorney, the labor portion of the remodeling project was not bid because the laborers used were on the district's payroll.

The district fire chief stated the materials were not awarded to the lowest bidder because the commissioners wanted to award to a vendor in Ellensburg.

We recommend the district officials put out for formal sealed bid all projects greater than \$10,000 as a whole.

We also recommend that all purchases that go out for bid be awarded to the lowest bidder if such bidder meets all of the contract specifications.